

LETTER OF RESIGNATION AS PRIME MINISTER
BY PRINCE FUMIMARO KONOYE TO H. M. THE
EMPEROR

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By His Majesty's Humble Servant, Fumimaro

When I, Your Majesty's humble servant unexpectedly received an Imperial Command to organize a Cabinet for a third time, it was my firm conviction that, in order that we can manage the present political situation so as to enable future national expansion, we must find a speedy solution for the China Incident by adjusting relations with the United States on friendly terms. Therefore, I have expressed my wishes to the United States Government soliciting an opportunity for friendly parleys.

Recently, however, Army Minister TOJO, who judged that such negotiations could not possibly be materialized before the desired time (about the middle or latter part of October), and who believed the situation had come to a point "When no other means can be found to carry through our demands ..." found in the 3rd article of "An Outline of How to Execute the National Policies of Our Empire," which met Imperial sanction following the conference in the presence of His Majesty held on the 6th of September, this year, has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived to open war against the United States.

When I consider the matter carefully, however, I still believe that provided we have ample time, not only is it erroneous to think that all negotiations with the United States are hopeless but that even the most difficult question involved, the question of withdrawing our troops, can be settled if we take the attitude of yielding to her in appearance by keeping for us the substance and casting away the name. It is utterly impossible for Your Majesty's humble servant Fumimaro, who is feeling much responsibility ever since the outbreak of the China Incident, to endure plunging the nation again into a titanic war the outcome of which cannot be forecast when even the China Incident has not yet been settled.

For these reasons Fumimaro believes that now is the time for the Government and the military to cooperate in unity towards materializing our negotiations with the United States by exerting our very utmost, thus to bring about settlement with China, which is now urgent necessity from the standpoint of recovering national strength as well as stabilizing popular morale. And if we have any desire for advancing our national fortunes now is the very time for us to stop back a bit to prepare for a forward leap, and to make the people struggle forward more bravely for the sovereign and the state enduring hardship and privation.

I, Your Majesty's humble servant, have done my best to prevail upon Army Minister TOJO by laying open to him my inmost feelings. However, the Army Minister persistently claimed that though he perfectly understood the toil and feelings of the Prime Minister, it was impossible to consent to the withdrawal of troops from the standpoint of maintaining their morale, and moreover, that once the United States was yielded to, she would apply still more overbearing measures and might even forget where to stop; and that even if the China Affair was settled, it was possible that a rupture might occur again in two or three years; and that as internal weaknesses were existent both in the United States and Japan we should not lose this opportunity for a war with her.

I, Fumimaro, conferred with him on four separate occasions but have failed to make him agree with me, and am now unable to carry on the grave responsibilities of assisting the Throne according to my own convictions, due solely to my want of abilities, for which I humbly beg Your Majesty's pardon.

I, Your Majesty's humble servant, beseech Your Majesty to release me from this important post.

October 16, 16th year of Showa (1941)
Prime Minister of Cabinet,
Prince Fumimaro KONOYE.

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. _____
I.P.S. No. _____Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Marquis YASUMASA MATSUDAIRA, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Imperial Household in the following capacity: President of the Peerage Bureau, Imperial Household, and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of two pages, dated 16 October, 1943, and described as follows: Letter of resignation as Prime Minister, by Prince FUMIMARO KONOME to H. M. The Emperor. I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Imperial Household, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): of the Board of Chamberlains, Imperial Household.

Signed at Tokyo on this2nd day of July, 1946./s/ Y. MATSUDAIRA
Signature of OfficialWitness: /s/ M. KURODASEAL
President of the Peerage Bureau
Official CapacityStatement of Official Procurement

I, EDWARD P. MONOGHAN, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this3rd day of July, 1946/s/ EDWARD P. MONOGHAN
NAMEWitness: /s/ WILLIAM C. PROUTInvestigator, I.P.S.
Official Capacity

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I am conversant with both
the Japanese and English languages and that the above
is a true and exact copy of the original document

Letter of Resignation from Premiership

submitted to H. M. the Emperor of Japan,

by Prince Fumimaro KONOYE.

/s/ TOSHIO TOMISHIGE

/s/ WARREN H. WAGNER

WITNESS:

/s/ EDWARD P. MONOGHAN

Tokyo

July 3rd, 1946.

巨 文 書

義ニ國ヲズモ三度大命ヲ辱ウシテ内閣ヲ組織スル
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國政府ニ諒シテハ親シク兩者會談ノ機ヲ具ヘラレ
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月中！下旬）迄ニハ到底成立ノ望ミナシト判斷シ
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大ナル責任ヲ痛感シツツアル巨文書ハ到底及ビ難

14-68A-2

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スベク努力シタリ之ニ對シ陸軍大臣ハ總理大臣ノ
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ニシテ洵ニ愚癡ノ至リニ達ヘズ仰ギ願ヘクハ理償
ヲ乘レ給ヒ巨ガ重職ヲ解キ給ハシコトヲ巨文庫誠
僞誠愚癡ミテ奏ス

1468A-3

民國十六年十月十六日

內閣總理大臣公署 近衛 文 相

1468A-4

證 明 書

小宮ハ日本語及ビ英語ノ両國語ニ通曉セルコト並ニ上記ハ

日本天皇陛下ニ公使近衛文相ガ上奏セル内閣總理大臣辭職願ノ原文書ノ眞實ニシテ正確ナル爲シタルコトヲ證ス。

電 頭 ト シ ム

ワアレシ・ニイデ・ワグナア

證 人

エドワード・ビー・モネハン

一九四六年（昭和二十一年）七月三日、東京ニ於テ

出所及ビ確實性ニ關スル陳述

余、侯爵松平康昌ハ余ガ宮内省宗秩寮總裁トシテノ資格ニ於テ職掌上宮内省ニ關係アルコト、並ニ茲ニ添附セラレタル一九四一年（昭和十六年）十月十六日附ノ二頁ヨル成ル文書即チ公使近衛文相ヨリ天皇陛下ニ上奏セル内閣總理大臣辭職願ト記

1468A-5

通セラレタル文書ヲ前述ノ官吏トシテ保管シ居ル
コトヲ證ス。

猶添附セラレタル記録及ビ文書ハ日本官内省ノ
公文書ニシテ左記ノ省又ハ部（經リ香號或ハ若シ
アラバ引用、又ハ官文書類又ハ返込ニ於ケル該文
書ノ保存箇所ノ公式名稱ヲ詳記スベシ）ノ官文書
類及ビソノ經リノ一部タルコトヲ證ス

官内省侍從職

一九四六年（昭和二十一年）七月二日、東京ニ於テ
署名ス

公職 宗 秩 兼 總 裁

松 平 康 昌

證人 エム、黒 田

公式入手ニ關スル陳述

余、「エドワード・ビー・モネハン」ハ余ガ聯合
國最高指揮官總司令部ニ關係アルコト、且上記ノ
文書ハ余ガ職務執行上前記署名ノ日本政府官吏ヨ
リ入手セルモノナルコトヲ證ス

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一九四六年（昭和二十一年）七月三日、東京ニ於テ

公 職

國際續業部員、在官

エドワード・ビー・モネハン

ウイリアム・シー・~~グレイ~~
フレイヤ